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# Supplementary Feed Crops for 1935

GEO. M. BRIGGS

by courtesy of

Extension Service of the College of Agriculture, The University of Wisconsin, Madison

## Sudan Grass Makes Heavy Yields

This dual purpose pasture and hay plant is meeting with more and more favor in our state. Sudan grass does best on loam soils but will make profitable pastures on most fertilized soils if sufficient moisture is available. Because it can be seeded over a long period it fits well where other crops have failed and crops have been cut early for hay or pastured off. Its roots and leaves grow thick and fast, thereby making it an excellent crop to follow up on quack grass fields where partial summer fallowing has been practiced.

As the plant is sensitive to soil and weather conditions, too early planting often gives disappointing yields. While good crops of sudan are raised when seeded at corn planting time, it is usually best to wait a week or two weeks later, when the seed will germinate better and grow much faster and more satisfactorily. In any event, the soil should be warmed up before seeding.

## Dry Hay Thoroughly Before Using

Sudan grass often could be cut two times to advantage, rather than to let heads get too mature, the lower portion of stems turn brown, and leaves get dry and drop off. By making two cuttings a larger yield of more palatable hay will be harvested. It is advisable to avoid any danger from prussic acid poisoning by feeding the hay only after it is well cured.

Use 25 to 30 pounds of good germinating seed per acre unless seed is of lower germination when more would be desirable. The seed bed should be well prepared by breaking up lumps and by having it well firmed. If soil and weather are good, harrow in the seed, otherwise drill in from one-half to one inch deep which will help insure a catch if the soil at the surface is dry.

Sorghum, ordinarily known as cane, is often used as fodder. It produces a fodder medium in value, quite comparable to corn fodder but is exceptionally palatable and readily eaten by farm animals. It can be seeded broadcast 60 to 75 pounds to the acre or in rows requiring 8 to 12 pounds to the acre, using the heavier rate on best soils and dropping seeds from 2 to 6 inches apart. Plant about corn planting time but for fodder, plantings may be made up to the middle of June.

Use a medium early variety, usually as is planted for sor-

ghum, or any of the amber strains. Cure in small shocks and feed when thoroughly cured.

## Millet Fits Into Crop Plan

Millet also fits into the crop plan both in point of time of seeding and value in weed control. The soil should be well warmed up before seeding, in that weeds often times bother considerably in early seeded millet. For best quality of hay it is well to cut when the seed is in dough stage. The Japanese variety yields the heaviest on low rich soils and is not as well adapted to dry areas or upland soils as the other types. The foxtail types like common, German, Hungarian, and Siberian all make desirable quality of hay if cut at the proper time. The German is latest of the foxtail types, producing the largest yields, but with somewhat coarser stems than the other varieties. For late seedings, the earlier types will produce the finest quality hay. From 25 to 30 pounds of seed per acre are needed to make best quality hay on heavier soils. Broom corn types of millet as the hog millets, called Proso, are usually used in producing seed but if cut while seed is in dough stage a fair quality of hay results.

## Nurse Crops Used as Hay

To play safe, most of the legumes are seeded with some grain crop seeded at one-half the usual rate. It is not uncommon to cut this nurse crop as hay in early July to preserve moisture and prevent smothering of the young seeding. On level lands where there is little soil washing or few weeds, an early seeding of alfalfa or sweet clover by itself or with a light nurse crop would give a real legume hay which could be cut this first year but not later than August 15.

On flat or heavy clay soils with poor drainage, sweet clover often abounds where there is enough lime. By cutting the new sweet clover either with or without a nurse crop, a fine crop of hay is obtained the first year, with little or no injury to the second year crop if a good growth is allowed to develop during the fall.

It is sound practice to disc up spots where alfalfa has winter-killed or did not catch well and seed to a grain crop with regular amounts of alfalfa seed. Cut all for hay when the rest of the field is cut or leave until grain is well headed in larger areas.

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25-lb. pail	30.00	24.00 per pkg.	1 only
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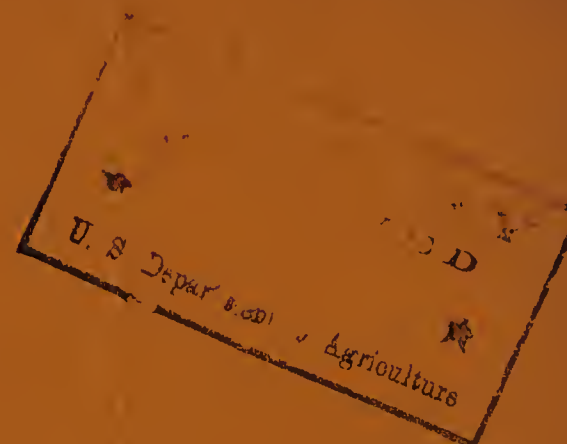
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